

# Transportation in Plain English: Connecting the Public to Transportation Processes



Vision, Vision, Vision.  
Details, Details, Details.  
Communication,  
Communication,  
Collaboration.

Presented to:

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# Photo & Content Credits



- Many Maine DOT staff, Paul Giguere
- Many web pages
- Many presentations before me

# Presentation Overview



Section 1: Transportation 1600-2002

(It's not all about road design...)

Section 2: Maine DOT Vision, Context Sensitive Design

Section 3: People & The Planet

(It's hard to have control issues...)

Section 4: Public Participation (It takes a village...)

Section 5: Jurisdiction (I'll see you in court...)

Section 6: It's Never as Easy as you Think

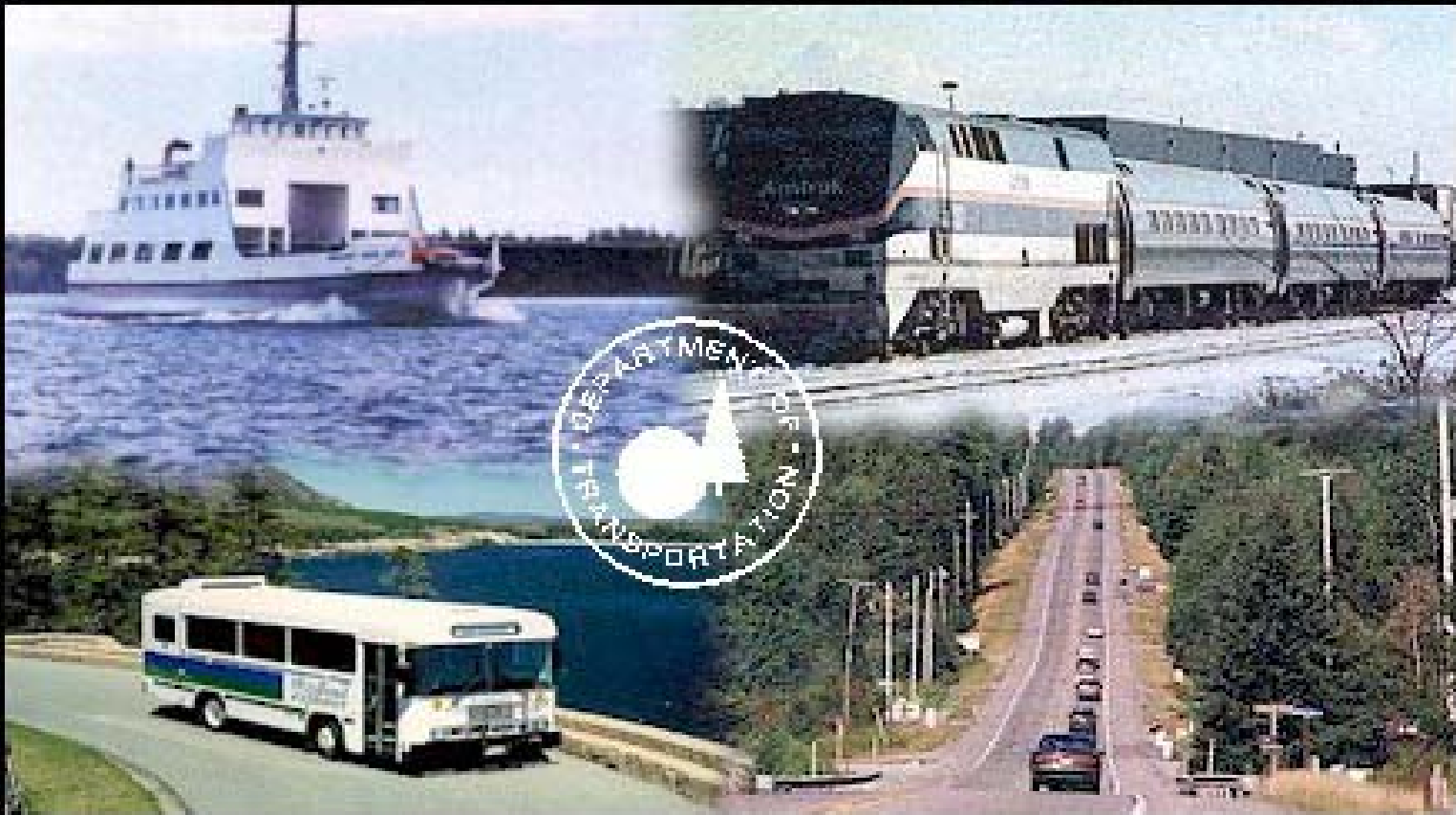
Section 7: Case Studies of Success

Section 8: What I'd do to Change the World

# *Section 1 of 8*

## Transportation: 1600-2002

(It's not all about road design...)



# Transportation 1600-1880s: Water Transportation



- Castine
- Vinalhaven
- Richmond

# Transportation: 1800s

## Rail Transportation



- Greenville
- Milo
- Union Station (Gilded Age)
- Mount Kineo (Gilded Age)



# *Transportation: 1880s – 1940s*

## *Gilded Age, Rockefeller*



- Works Progress Admin / Civilian Conservation Corps
- Baxter Boulevard
- Carriage Trails
- Waldo-Hancock Bridge
- Deer Isle-Sedgwick Bridge

# Transportation: 1940-1960

## Automobiles & the Interstate Era



- Newport
- Scarborough
- Augusta



# Transportation: 1960s-1990s



- Scenic Byways
- Scenic Byway Corridor Committees
- Billboard Laws
- Traveler Information Advisory Council (TIAC)

# Transportation: 1960s-present

## Historic preservation



- Hallowell
- Portland

# Transportation: 1970s to present

## Environmental protection



- National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA, EIS, EA)
- Wetlands & Water
- Westbrook
- Lewiston
- Searsport

# Transportation: 1991 ISTEA



Intermodal Surface  
Transportation  
Efficiency Act of 1991  
Multimodalism  
Funding flexibility  
Design flexibility



# Transportation: 1991 Sensible Transportation Policy Act



- 1991 Referendum
- Alternatives analysis
- Environmental language
- Regional Transportation Advisory Committees (RTACs)

# Transportation: 1998 Transportation Equity Act (TEA21)

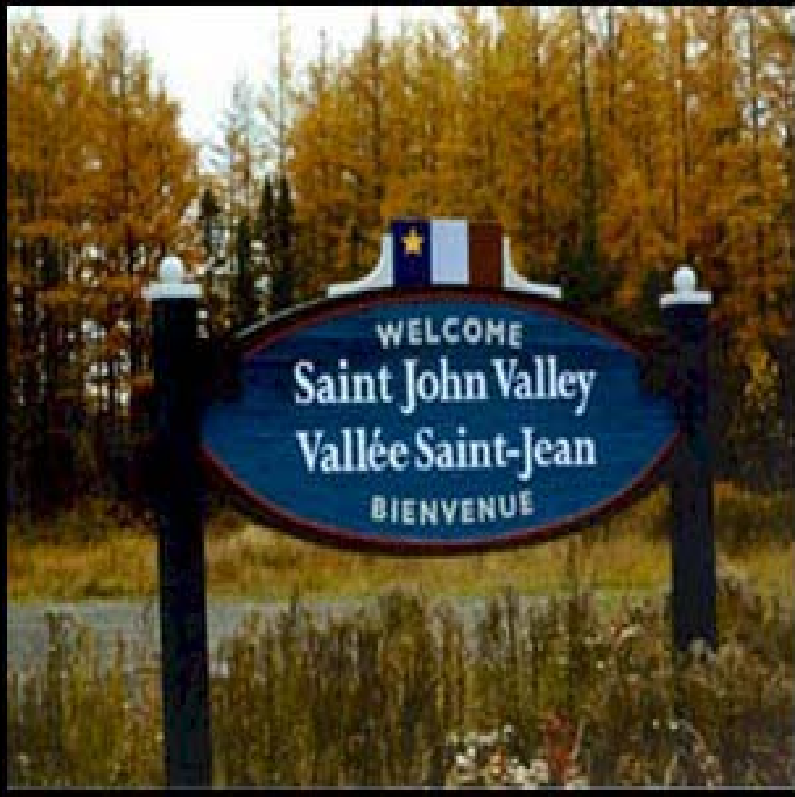


- Transportation Equity Act (TEA21)
- Continued ISTEA traditions
- Environmental Streamlining
- Context Sensitive Design pilot states



# Transportation: 2002

## The big issues today



- Amtrak
- Aroostook
- Midcoast
- East West highway(s)
- East Coast Greenway
- High speed ferries
- Portland/Bangor/L-A
- Sprawl/Growth/Decline
- Climate Change

## *Section 2 of 8*

# Maine DOT Vision Statement



- Maine DOT will create and maintain a safe, efficient and economical transportation system that is cost effective, energy efficient, environmentally sound and responsive to the diverse needs and values of the people of Maine.

# Maine DOT Vision



- “Transportation systems” versus public works, recreation, resource protection, community development. (CA, RI, MD)
- “Diverse needs and values” versus unified vision of Maine.
- “Cost-effective” versus the gilded age.

# Maine DOT Vision

## *“Create and Maintain”*

- 20 Year Plan < (P)urpose & (N)eed
- 6 Year Plan < Vision
- 2 Year Plan (BTIP) < Diverse Needs & Values
- Project Plan
- Design <Context Sensitive Design is misnamed
- Construction <Instead: Context Sensitive Solutions
- Maintenance
- Operations

# Maine DOT Vision

## Context Sensitive Design

- Maine DOT vision of “Environmentally sound,” encompasses *scenic, historic, cultural, community, environmental*
- Context Sensitive Design is “*scenic, aesthetic, historic, environmental*”
- Context Sensitive *Solutions* should be every step taken by Maine DOT, rather than an isolated initiative

# *Section 3 of 8*

## People & The Planet

- It's hard to have control issues when you're dealing with traffic.
- It's hard to have control issues when your dealing with Mother Nature.

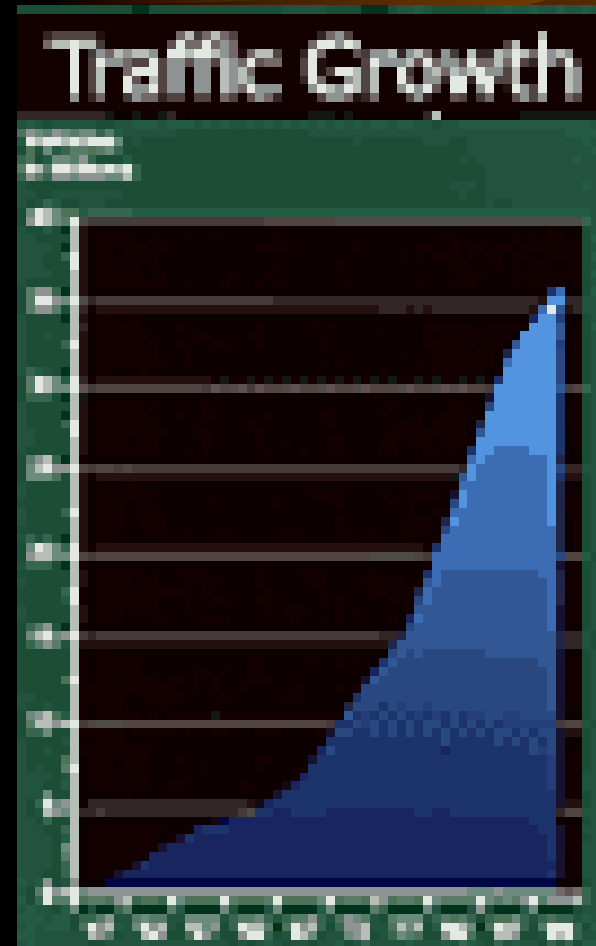




# People & The Planet

## Population Patterns

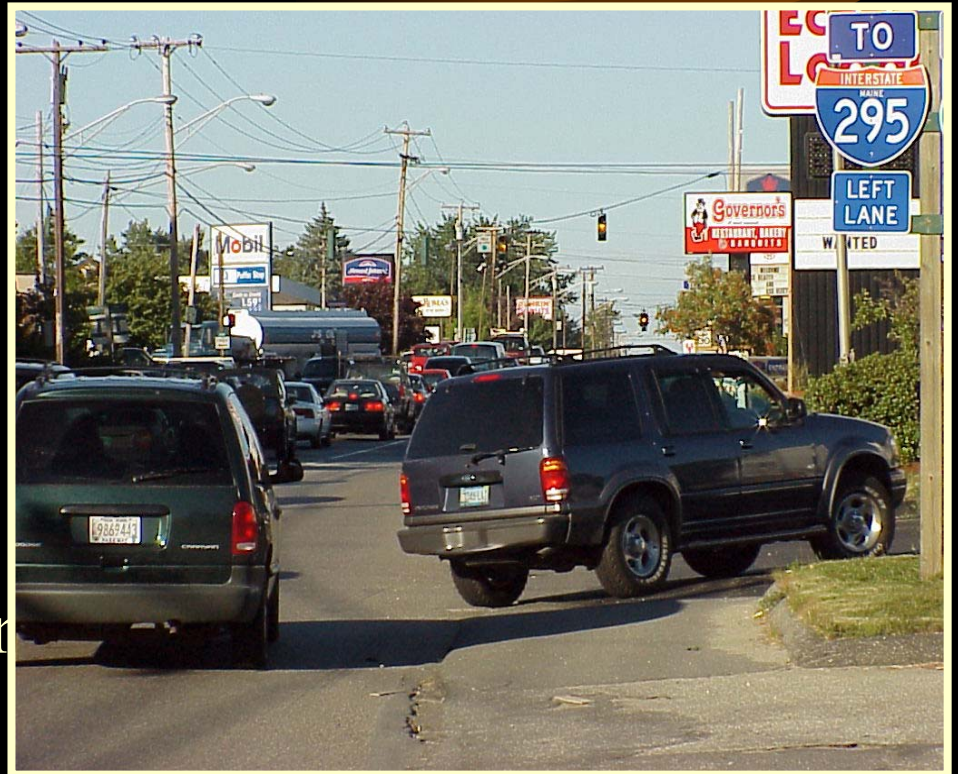
- Standish population 9,000 and growing
- Windham population 16,000 and growing
- Chicken & Egg: transportation as tourniquet versus service
- Traffic growth > population growth
- Baby boom was smaller household sizes, suburbs. Aging baby boom is services, transit?



# People & The Planet

## Chaos & Choice

- Chaos theory applies to traffic
- Everyone else should use transit
- Everyone else should live downtown
- I deserve my house on the tip of a peninsula



# People & The Planet Behavior

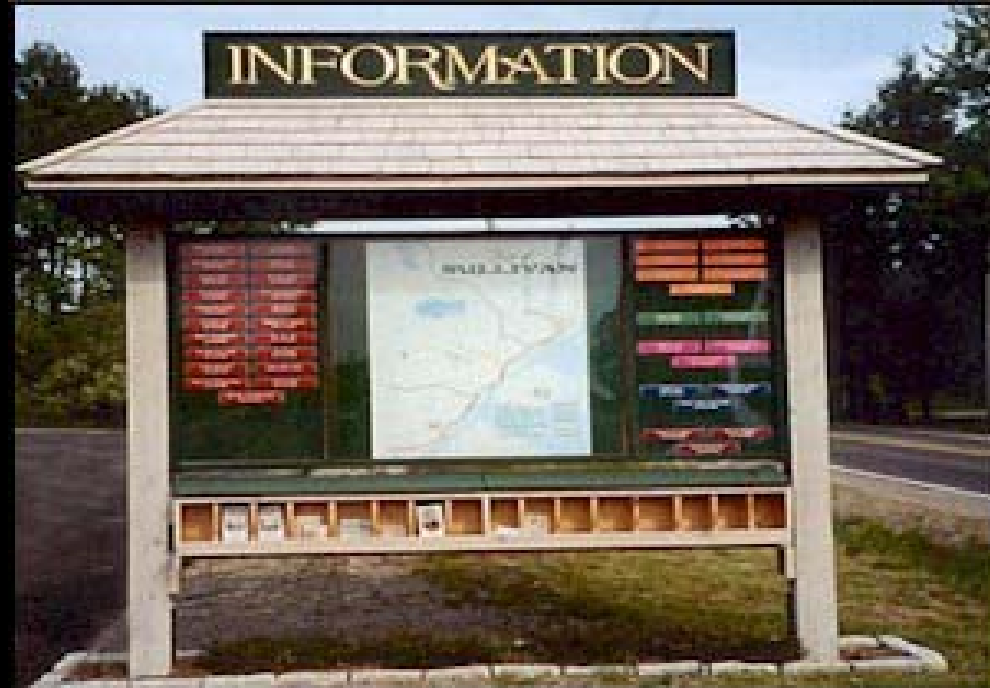
- Road design for the average Buddhist monk
- Road design for the average teenager on the average Saturday night
- Road maintenance for the average 60 mile commute in a blizzard



# People & The Planet

## Technology, Markets, Taxes

- Internet & Satellites versus government controlled signage
- MBNA & Walmart versus volunteer planning boards, government plans
- Gas tax revenues are flat while public expectations aren't



# People & The Planet

## Climate & Ecology

- Winter salting & safety versus roadside ecology & landscape
- 1987 flood versus historic bridges, villages, erosion
- Ice Storm versus landscape
- Moose versus Mazdas





# *Section 4 of 8*

## Overview of Public Participation

- It takes a village
- The world is run by those who show up





# Public Participation



- Legislature, budgets, bills, bonds
- Authorities/Advisory Committees
- Regional Transportation Advisory Committees
- Project Public Advisory Committees
- Public Hearings
- Six Year Plan Hearings
- Letters
- Phone Calls
- Webpages/email
- Referenda
- Litigation

# *Section 5 of 8*

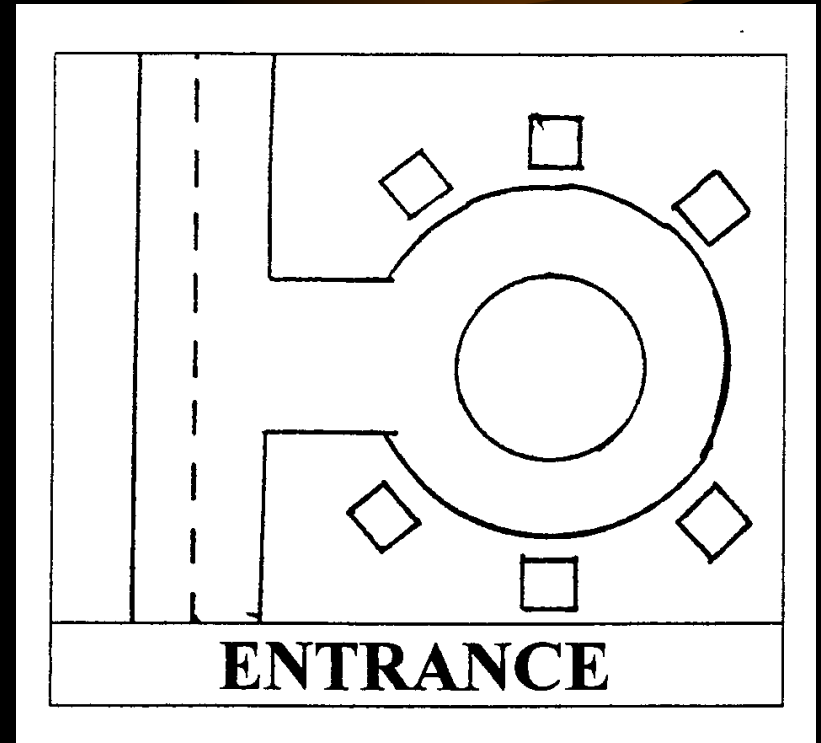
## Jurisdiction

- “Sorry, that’s a local issue.”
- “The Feds made me do it.”
- “Talk to your legislator.”
- “I’ll see you in court.”



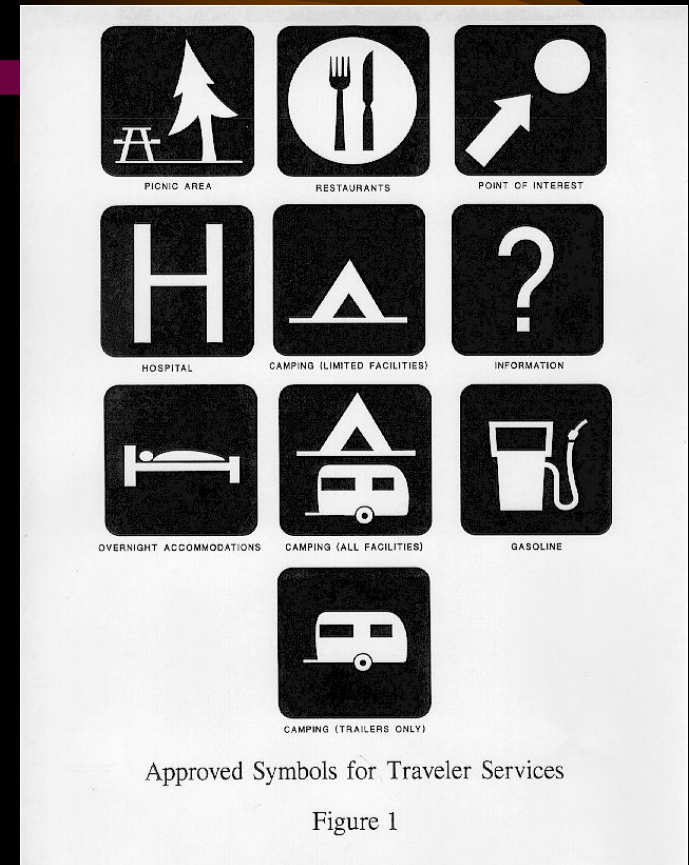
# Jurisdiction case study: Access Management

- Pre-2000 Law: shall not unreasonably deny
- 2000 Law: standards and prohibitions
- Public advice
- Legislative oversight
- Public opinion
- Vision, details, communication



# Jurisdiction Case Study: Billboard Statutes

- Clear laws, funding
- Annual amendments
- Public advice
- Public opinion
- NRCM of old, Angus King, Marion Fuller Brown
- Vision, details, communication




# Jurisdiction case study: Local planning vs DOT planning

- Local planning boards, comprehensive plans
- Regional planning, state planning
- DOT planning
- Federal jurisdiction
- Back to vision: who defines? Where best defined?
- Vision, details, communication



# Jurisdiction Case Study: Avoidance versus Preservation



- Federal law requires avoidance of certain agriculture, scenic, historic properties, if federal dollars are used.
- No law protects those same properties from development, following expensive avoidance



# Jurisdiction Case Study: MDOT landscape plans

- State vs. Local jurisdiction
- Raking leaves
- Planting trees
- Maintaining planting
- Waterville I-95
- Bath visibility



# *Section 6 of 8*

## It's never as easy as you think

- Damn hard work by damn good people
- “If you do what you always did, you’ll get what you always got.”  
Yogi Bera.



# It's never as easy...

## Example: Safety

- 1998-2000 Fixed Object Crashes in Maine
- #1 Trees, Shrubs: 82 fatal, 500 incapacitating.
- #2 Embankments: 47 fatal, 302 incapacitating.
- #3 Utilities: 28 fatal, 238 incapacitating.
- Moving utilities often necessitates moving trees.
- Underground utility costs extraordinary
- Safe for me or safe for the average teenager/grandma

# It's never as easy...

## Example: Function

- Arterial, collector, local
- State, regional, local
- The more traffic, the more tax base
- NIMBY or vision
- Sprawl or growth?
- Bridgton





# It's never as easy...

## Example: Cost



- Competing needs
- Premiums
- Example Carlton Bridge

# *Section 7 of 8*

## Case Studies of Success



- Vision, vision, vision
- Details, details, details
- Communication, communication, communication
- Pulling it all together: public participation, jurisdiction, vision, function, safety.

# Case Study of Success Maine's Collector Highway Improvement Program

- State standards
- Scenic Byways
- Resource avoidance
- Community impact avoidance
- Cost savings
- Onsite recycling, pavement, tire chips





# Case Study of Success

## Explore Maine & Acadia Explorer

- Vision, Details, Communication, Collaboration
- Fiscal, Safety, Environment
- Pavement avoidance
- Access to jobs, jobs
- Paradigm Shift



# Case Study of Success

## Bicycle Coalition of Maine

- Vision, Details, Communication, Collaboration
- Planning, Design, Maintenance, Operations
- Safety, health, public participation, jurisdiction



# Case Study of Success

## Recreational Access at Bridges.

### Fish Passage at Bridges, Culverts.

- Vision, Details, Collaboration
- Jurisdiction, public participation
- Snowmobiles
- Fishing
- Canoeing
- Ecology





- Snowmobile  
Access, Rafters

- West Forks



## Case Study of Success

# Augusta Third Bridge



- Still watching...
- Community leadership
- Land use moratorium
- Multiagency collaboration
- Regional & local visions aligned
- Capitol/Historic district relief

## *Section 8 of 8*

# What I'd do to make a difference

## *Maine DOT Six Year Plan*

- Vision, Details, Communication, Collaboration
- Hearings this fall, comments in writing, comments in person, comments by organization



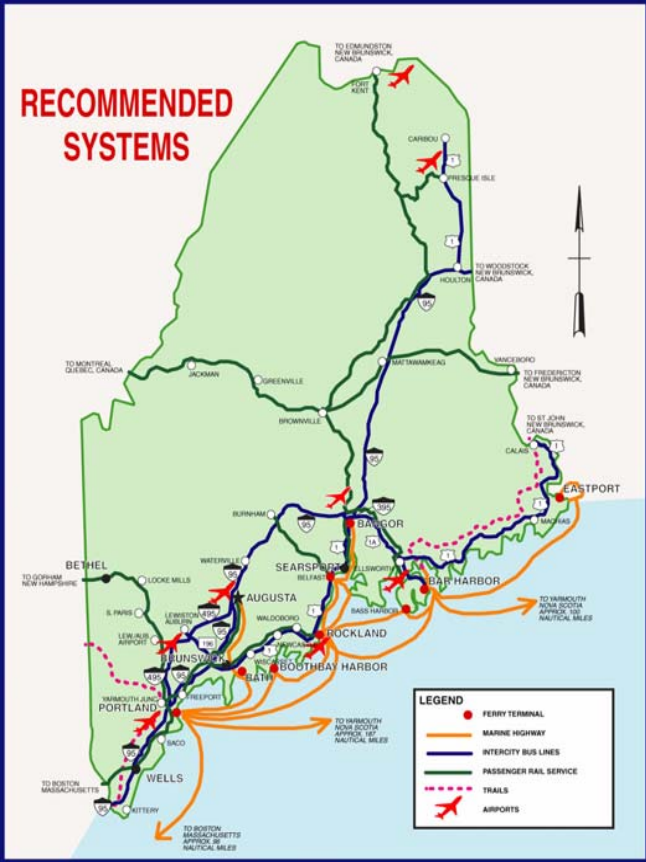


# What I'd do to make a difference Read & Comment on Project Fine Print

- EA/EIS/Blank plan.  
Ignore for a moment the obsession with preferred alignment.
- Early constructive input on (P)urpose & (N)eed, vision, visual assessment, community impact, community partnership for landscape, integration with local plans



- # RECOMMENDED SYSTEMS
- 
- This map of Maine illustrates various transportation systems. A legend in the bottom right corner defines the symbols: a red dot for ferry terminals, a blue line for marine highways, an orange line for intercity bus lines, a green line for passenger rail service, a pink dashed line for trails, and a red airplane icon for airports. The map shows several ferry routes connecting to neighboring states and Canada, including Bethel to Gorham, New Hampshire, and various coastal routes to New Brunswick, Canada, and New Brunswick, Canada. Major cities and towns are labeled, and a compass rose is located in the upper right corner.



# What I'd do to make a difference Intellect & Integrity

- If you want it, be willing to pay for it (federal, state, local, personal)
- Ask questions. Demand answers. (Why is dredge material trucked to Norridgewock? Why is truck wash water trucked through Wiscasset? Why are resource agency offices neither downtown nor proximate to managed resources?)



# What I'd do to make a difference

## Make it Personal

- Apply for a job at MDOT
- Move closer to work.
- Offer your time.
- Run for the legislature.
- The silent majority isn't an effective concept.
- Early constructive input (pick up the phone.)





*Thank you*



